

**RECOMMENDATIONS  
FOR MEANINGFULLY  
ENGAGING **YOUNG**  
**KEY POPULATIONS**  
IN **THE GLOBAL FUND**  
PROCESSES**



YOUTH RISE



GLOBAL NETWORK OF  
YOUNG PEOPLE  
LIVING WITH HIV

## Background

The webinar Young People's Engagement in the Global Fund: Bridging Gaps and Addressing Challenges organized by the Count Me In consortium (Youth lead, Youth Rise and Y+ Global), hosted on the 8th of November 2023, was for YPLHIV and YKPs to share their experiences of ethical and meaningful engagement in the Global Fund 7th replenishment, Grant Making Cycle 7. The webinar aimed to create an interactive space for young leaders to learn from each other's experiences, identify challenges, and collaboratively explore potential solutions for effective advocacy engagement. Participants, including youth-led networks and consortium partners, sought to generate specific recommendations for meaningful engagement of young key populations in the Global Fund replenishment process and advocacy initiatives as outlined below.

### Key Words

- **CCM:** Country Coordinating Mechanism
- **YKPs:** Young Key Populations
- **GC7:** Grant Making Cycle
- **YPLHIV:** Young People Living With HIV



## Recommendations for meaningfully engaging young key populations in the Global Fund processes

These recommendations aim to facilitate ethical and meaningful involvement of Young People Living With HIV (YPLHIV) and Young Key Populations (YKPs) in the Global Fund 7th replenishment, Grant Making Cycle 7. Derived from insightful discussions during the recent webinar hosted by Y+ Global, these comprehensive recommendations focus on key areas crucial for effective YPLHIV engagement.

The recommendations are derived from the webinar speakers' presentations and breakout sessions with the participants. From the participant's breakout sessions more emphasis was placed on the need to conduct policy and legal reviews, conducting sensitization campaigns, independent mapping and inclusion in funding requests.

## 1. Policy and Legal Review

Advocate for a comprehensive review of policies and laws at national and international levels to ensure meaningful representation of diverse young key populations (YKPs) on the Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM) platform. This includes, but is not limited to:

- ▶ Engaging in targeted advocacy efforts to influence policy reforms that support the inclusion of diverse YKPs in decision-making bodies. This may involve proposing amendments to existing policies or drafting new legislation that explicitly addresses the representation of YKPs.
- ▶ Targeted Advocacy Efforts: Engage in purposeful advocacy to influence policy reforms supporting the inclusion of diverse YKPs in decision-making bodies. This may involve proposing amendments to existing policies or drafting new legislation explicitly addressing YKPs' representation.
- ▶ Guidelines Development: Work collaboratively with legal experts to develop guidelines and frameworks that provide a solid legal basis for the meaningful participation of YKPs, especially YPLHIV, in the CCM and other relevant platforms.

## 2. Sensitization Campaigns

Conduct ongoing sensitization campaigns to emphasize the importance of YKP engagement, targeting principal country recipients and CCM members. This ensures a continuous dialogue for long-term, sustainable relationships. This can be done in several ways, such as:

- ▶ Designing and implementing ongoing sensitization campaigns aimed at principal country recipients and CCM members. These campaigns should highlight the significance of YKP engagement in shaping effective HIV responses, emphasizing the diverse needs and perspectives within YKP communities.
- ▶ Multi-Channel Communication: Leverage various communication channels, including social media, webinars, and traditional outlets, to reach a wide audience. Foster a culture of continuous dialogue around YKP engagement.
- ▶ Developing informative materials, such as brochures, videos, and infographics, that clearly articulate the benefits of YKP inclusion and dispel common misconceptions or biases.



### 3. Independent Mapping

The Global fund must commission an independent third-party-led mapping of YKP organizations or communities to ensure their effective representation and prevent exclusion during decision-making processes. This mapping exercise should identify existing organizations, assess their capacity, and ensure that no segment of the YKP population is overlooked. This can be realized by:

- ▶ Engaging local communities to contribute to the mapping process, ensuring that the perspectives and needs of YKPs are accurately represented.
- ▶ Using the mapping results to create a dynamic database or directory that serves as a resource for funders, policymakers, and organizations seeking to collaborate with YKPs.
- ▶ Dynamic Database Creation: Use mapping results to create a dynamic database or directory serving as a resource for funders, policymakers, and organizations collaborating with YKPs.

### 4. Inclusion in Funding Requests

The Global Fund must advocate for the explicit inclusion of YKP community priorities as a distinct item in funding requests, ensuring their unique needs and challenges are addressed separately. This advocacy should highlight the unique challenges faced by YKPs and emphasize the importance of targeted interventions to address these challenges. This can be ensured by:

- ▶ Guideline Development: Collaborate with CCM members, funding agencies, and YKP representatives to develop clear guidelines for the inclusion of YKP priorities in funding requests. Provide instructions on qualifying programs and interventions.
- ▶ Monitoring Implementation: Monitor the implementation of funded projects to ensure transparent and effective utilization of resources allocated for YKP priorities.

Incorporating Presentation of Case study of the YKP/YPLHIV engagement in the Grant Cycle7  
Recommendations by Munkh Erdene Davaajav:

From the case studies presented during the webinar, more emphasis was on the importance of providing technical expertise, ensuring financial resources, promoting flexibility in requirements, and establishing robust accountability and evaluation mechanisms.

### 5. Providing Technical Expertise

- ▶ Mentorship and Capacity-Building Program: Implement a mentorship and capacity-building program tailored for organizations passionate about engaging YKPs. Focus on enhancing technical components like grant writing, project management, and data collection.
- ▶ Peer-to-Peer Learning Networks: Facilitate peer-to-peer learning networks where experienced organizations share best practices, lessons learned, and practical insights. Empower those new to YKP engagement.

## 6. Ensuring Adequate Financial Resources

- ▶ The Global Fund must have dedicated funding streams within the Global Fund to support and prioritize YKP engagement initiatives. This funding should be easily accessible, transparent, and tailored to the unique needs and challenges faced by organizations working with YKPs.
- ▶ The Global Fund must collaborate with international donors, philanthropic organizations, and private sector partners to create a pool of resources specifically earmarked for YKP engagement. This financial support should cover capacity-building activities, advocacy efforts, and program implementation.

## 7. Flexible Requirement Process

- ▶ Streamlined and Flexible Application Process: Urge the Global Fund to introduce a streamlined and flexible application process for YKP networks and organizations. Acknowledge the unique context and challenges faced by YKPs and provide alternative pathways for engagement.
- ▶ Adaptive Project Proposal Approach: Encourage the adoption of a more adaptive approach to project proposals. Allow adjustments and modifications during the implementation phase based on evolving needs and dynamics of YKP communities.
- ▶ Simplified Reporting Requirements: Advocate for simplified reporting requirements for YKP-led projects. Reduce administrative burdens and ensure a focus on achieving meaningful outcomes rather than bureaucratic compliance.

## 8. Establishing Accountability and Evaluation Models

- ▶ The Global Fund must develop a set of standardized indicators and metrics to measure the effectiveness of YKP engagement initiatives. These indicators should encompass both quantitative and qualitative measures, including community-led assessments and feedback mechanisms.
- ▶ The Global Fund must collaborate with YKPs to establish an independent evaluation mechanism specifically dedicated to assessing the impact of YKP engagement strategies. This could involve the creation of an external review board comprising experts with a deep understanding of YKP issues.
- ▶ The Global Fund must incorporate YKP representatives in the evaluation and decision-making processes within the Global Fund grant making cycles, ensuring that their perspectives and experiences contribute to the overall assessment of programs.
- ▶ Establish clear benchmarks and milestones for YKP engagement, allowing for periodic reviews and adjustments based on the identified successes and challenges.